

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A printer comprising:

an input unit;

a controller for reading print type information sent through a communication interface together with print data and determining whether a user selected a confidential print mode or a general print mode, and for performing, when the confidential print mode is selected, the printing of a confidential print data file received when a code that is the same as a secret code set in the received print type information is input through the input unit; and

an engine controlled by the printer controller for printing an image corresponding to the print data to paper; and

a sound output device for sounding an alarm,

wherein the printer controller controls the sound output device to sound the alarm when confidential print data to be printed is received.
2. (canceled).
3. (previously presented): The printer of claim 1, wherein, when received print data to be printed is the confidential print data, the printer controller displays a message, through a display device, that the received print data is a confidential document.
4. (previously presented): An image printing system, comprising:

a computer having a printer driver for providing a print type menu on the screen of a display device so that a user can select either general printing or confidential printing with

respect to a document file to be printed and outputting the selected print type information and a print data file obtained by converting the document file into a language for a printer through a communication interface; and

a printer for reading print type information transferred together with print data through the communication interface and performing printing of a confidential print data file to be printed and received when a code input through an input device is the same as a secret code set in received print type information; and

a sound output device for sounding an alarm,

wherein the sound output device sounds the alarm when confidential print data to be printed is received.

5. (original): The image printing system of claim 4, wherein the communication interface is a network for relaying the switching of information between a plurality of computers and at least one printer.

6. (currently amended): A method for printing a confidential document in a printer comprising:

reading print type information received through a communication interface together with a print data file and determining whether a user set the print type information to be either general printing or confidential printing with respect to the document file to be printed;

requesting a user to input a secret code ~~when~~ only after the print type information is set to be confidential printing; and

printing an image corresponding to the print data to paper when the secret code input by the user is the same as the secret code set in the print type information.

7. (previously presented): The method of claim 6, further comprising a step of, when the received print type information is set to be confidential printing in the reading step (a), sounding an alarm for informing this fact to the user.

8. (currently amended): A method for printing a confidential document in an image printing system including a computer and a printer connected to the computer by a communication interface comprising:

requesting a user to select either general printing or confidential printing ~~of setting a secret code~~ with respect to a document file to be printed on a print type selection menu screen using an input device when there is a print request command through the input device of the computer;

transferring information, on the selected print type and a print data file obtained by converting the document file into a language for the printer, to the printer;

reading information on the print type transferred to the printer together with the print data file and, only after said confidential printing is selected, requesting the user to input a secret code with respect to a confidential print data file selected to be printed and received;

determining whether the input secret code is the same as the secret code previously set in the print type information; and

performing the printing of the received print data file when it is determined that the input secret code is the same as the secret code.

9. (currently amended): A method for printing a confidential document in an image printing system including a computer and a printer connected to the computer by a communication interface comprising:

requesting a user to select either general printing or confidential printing of setting a secret code with respect to a document file to be printed on a print type selection menu screen using an input device when there is a print request command through the input device of the computer;

transferring information, on the selected print type and a print data file obtained by converting the document file into a language for the printer, to the printer;

reading information on the print type transferred to the printer together with the print data file and requesting the user to input a secret code with respect to a confidential print data file selected to be printed and received;

determining whether the input secret code is the same as the secret code previously set in the print type information;

performing the printing of the received print data file when it is determined that the input secret code is the same as the secret code; and

~~The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of,~~ when the print type information transferred to the printer and read is set to be a confidential printing, sounding an alarm for informing this fact to the user.